United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3410 (NA-13-12)
Date: December 3, 2013

Subject: 2013 Gypsy Moth Survey

To: Clyde Thompson, Forest Supervisor
Monongahela National Forest

In early October, WVDA personnel contacted our office to inform us they were conducting gypsy moth egg mass surveys on private lands along Jordon Run Road adjacent to the Forest. They reported seeing a high number of egg masses on both private and federal lands. Amy Hill (Morgantown Field Office) surveyed the area including FS road 19 and FS road 75. Surveys were also conducted in the Smoke Hole area where gypsy moth has historically caused significant defoliation.

Several small spot infestations of gypsy moth were located in the Jordon Run/Dolly Sods area but no egg masses were found in the Smoke Hole area. There have been no reports of gypsy moth egg masses in the southern zone of the Forest. Due to the results of the survey, we do not recommend any treatments but you may receive some reports of defoliation or presence of gypsy moth caterpillars from the public during the summer. We will assist the Forest in: (a) monitoring the extent and severity of any defoliation that may occur and (b) performing egg mass surveys in the fall.

District Rangers and other field-going personnel can assist our efforts through on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity such as defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. Activity such as unusually high numbers of caterpillars present in the forest in early spring and summer may be a prelude to an expanded defoliation event.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Amy Hill (304) 285-1565.

Sincerely,

Robert Lueckel

Field Representative

Morgantown Field Office

Cc: District Ranger, Potomac District
David Ede, Forest Planner

ALH